

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid [998.298]

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### MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

#### Hazel Palmer Collection

*Abstract:* Scrapbooks, memorabilia and photographs pertaining to lawyer and professional woman Hazel Palmer of Sedalia, MO who served as National Federation President of the Business and Professional Women's Club, ran for US Senator, served in many other local and state offices and generally advocated for professional women.

*Extent:* 1 cubic foot

*Physical Description:* Paper; photographs

*Location:* Missouri State Archives; Stacks

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

*Alternative Formats:* None

*Access Restrictions:* None

*Publication Restrictions:* Standard copyright rules apply

*Preferred Citation:* [item description], [date]; *Hazel Palmer Collection*, Record Group 998.298; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* Gift with deed; Accession #2002-0323

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by EW on 05/26/2017. Updated by EW on 03/24/2021.

### HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Hazel Palmer (1903-2002) was a nationally-known women's advocate and professional lawyer. Palmer attended National University in Washington, D.C. where she received her bachelor of law degree in 1932. While attending the University, she served as president of the Cy Pres Club, a women's student organization. Upon graduation, she moved back to Sedalia where she was admitted as a member of the Missouri Bar Association in December 1932. She joined her

father's law practice (former US Rep. John W. Palmer), which was re-named Palmer & Palmer in her honor. She quickly became president of the Women's Republican Club of Pettis County in July 1933, secretary for the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) and was appointed assistant prosecuting attorney of Pettis County in March 1937. She served for twelve years as the Pettis County Collector of Revenue. She regularly had local and state speaking engagements. In July 1937, she became president of the local BPWC. In May 1940, she moved up to state legislation chairwoman for the state BPWC, second vice president in April 1941, first vice president in April 1942 and finally state president in April 1944. She repeated this pattern at the national level and ultimately in May 1956 she was unanimously elected National Federation President of the BPWC.

In 1954, Palmer traveled abroad as an officer of the National Federation of BPWC to Europe where she and others led the "Crusade for Freedom Tour to inspect Radio Free Europe's broadcasting facilities behind the Iron Curtain." (*Independent Woman*, August 1956 Vol. 35 No. 8 p. 26)

"In [August] 1969, she was appointed by President Nixon as one of twenty women in the U.S. to serve on the Citizen's Advisory [Council] on the Status of Women. She was elected in 1960-1964 as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. In 1958, she was the first woman to win a major party nomination for U.S. Senator in Missouri. A staunch Republican, Miss Palmer handily defeated three men [in the primaries] to run against Sen. Stuart Symington." (quoted from her obituary (see "Related Materials" below)) Palmer lost to Symington with a vote of 393,847 to 480,083.

Palmer continued to practice law well into her 80s. Eventually, she retired and moved from Sedalia to Moberly, MO where she passed away at the age of 98 on April 10, 2002.

## ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

### Related Collections

MS199 Jefferson City Business and Professional Women's Club Collection

### Additional External Resources

Obituary online: [http://www.mclaughlinfuneralchapel.com/memsol.cgi?user\\_id=239914](http://www.mclaughlinfuneralchapel.com/memsol.cgi?user_id=239914).

The Business Professional Women's Foundation (the Club's successor):  
<http://bpwfoundation.org/>.

The State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia maintains the following collections: [#C17 Robert E. Blake Constitutional Convention Papers, 1943-1945](#)  
[#C2538 Business and Professional Women's Club, Columbia, Missouri, Records, 1936-2010](#)  
[#C3884 Jean Gaddy Wilson Papers, 1968-2008](#)

[#C4153 May Ruth Hyde Papers, 1972-1993](#)

[#CA5838 Missouri Federation of Business & Professional Women's Organizations, Records](#)

[#K0313 Rebecca Morris Papers, 1972-1980](#)

[#R299 Lebanon Women's Club \(Lebanon, Mo.\) Yearbooks, 1935-1964](#)

[#R468 Louise Bradford Collection, 1919-1985](#)

[#R573 Business and Professional Women's Club \(Webb City, Mo.\) Records, 1951-1984](#)

[#R961 West Plains Business and Professional Women's Club Booklet, 1936](#)

[#S0236 Margaret A. Hickey Papers, 1928-1975](#)

and more

## **SERIES**

Scrapbooks (1929-1958)

Photographs (1921-1972)

Miscellanea (1921-1958)

## SCRAPBOOKS, 1929-1958

*Arrangement:* Chronological

### Scope and Content

These scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings, brochures, photographs and ephemera related to Hazel Palmer's professional life. Reproductions of pages may be made provided the proper original source is cited in the case of newspaper clippings and publications; standard copyright rules apply to published materials. The photographs, cards and letters may be reproduced.

\*Eisenhower's note has been digitized and is available on Manuscript DVD #1 in Reference.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	OB36		Scrapbook #1: Clippings and programs and a few photographs dealing with Hazel Palmer's time as a law student at National University in Washington, DC, her law practice in Sedalia, and her professional activities, including serving in the BPWC.	1929-1944
	OB37		Scrapbook #2: A small photo album presented to Hazel Palmer who at the time was First Vice President of the BPWC by President Marguerite Rewalt. Approximately 17 photographs with captions, 1 brochure, and 1 newspaper clipping.	1954-1956
	OB37		Scrapbook #3: Photographs, newspaper clippings, programs, and other small publications concerning Hazel Palmer, her time with the BPWC, and more. NOTE: includes a letter signed by US First Lady Mamie Eisenhower.*	1956-1958

## PHOTOGRAPHS, 1921-1972

*Arrangement:* Chronological

### Scope and Content

Black and white original photographs. Items are digitized and available in the Reference Room on Manuscript DVD #1.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	96	24	3 5/8" x 5 5/8" Mounted silver gelatin portrait of a young woman, possibly Hazel Palmer's high school graduation picture. Photo by Grant, Sedalia, MO.	c1921
	96	25	7"x10" Portrait of John W. Palmer, US Representative and Hazel Palmer's father. By Harris & Ewing. Marked up.	c1928
	96	26	5"x7" Portrait of Hazel Palmer behind a desk. Law books. Possibly this is at the law offices of Palmer & Palmer in Sedalia.	mid-1940s
	OB37	1	10"x14" Portrait of Hazel Palmer, Blackstone Studios, Inc., New York, NY	1940s-1950s
	96	27	7"x8" Hazel Palmer (4 <sup>th</sup> from left) and five other women at Hazel's installation as National BPWC President, Miami Beach, FL.	07/06/1956
	96	27	7"x9" A woman hands Hazel Palmer a present and flower bouquet at her installation as National BPWC President, Miami Beach, FL.	07/06/1956
	96	28	8"x10" American-Canadian Friendship Luncheon at Hotel Statler, Detroit, MI. L to R: Grace B. Daniels, Sallie Butler, Margaret Hyndman, Hazel Palmer.	07/07/1957
	96	28	8"x10" American-Canadian Friendship Luncheon at Hotel Statler, Detroit, MI. Group shot. Photo by Chase, Washington, DC.	07/07/1957
	96	29	Nine 3 3/4"x4 3/4" Proof prints showing Hazel Palmer meeting with Chinese Ambassador Hollington Trong in the Twin Oaks Residence, Washington, DC. Includes copy of newspaper clipping with caption. Photos by United Press Associations, New York, NY.	01/11/1958
	96	30	7 7/8" x 10" Group of women lined up in front of a brick wall. Hazel Palmer is in the front row, 2 <sup>nd</sup> from left. Unknown BPWC event, possibly in Wyoming. Photo by Campbell's Studio, Wheatland, WY.	1950s
	96	31	8"x10" Portrait of Hazel Palmer by Chase Studio, Washington, DC	1950s
	96	32	8"x10" Three women (Hazel Palmer is next to Nixon) and President Richard M. Nixon in Washington, DC	1969-1972
	96	33	7 1/4"x9" President Richard M. Nixon shakes hands with	05/16/1972

			a woman (possibly Hazel Palmer) while another woman smiles and watches. Washington, DC. Official photograph of the White House.	
	96	34	7"x9¼" Members of the Citizens Advisory Council on the Status of Women (including Hazel Palmer) pose with President Richard M. Nixon in Washington, DC. Official photograph of the White House. Photo is inscribed in blue ink, "To Hazel with love – Jacqueline Gutwillig." Gutwillig is the Chairwoman of the Advisory Council.	05/17/1972

## Oversized photographs (not digitized):

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	OB33	7	Speakers' table and crowd at the National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. banquet held in the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. Photo by Anderson, #53. Measures 20¼"x8".	07/13/1939
	OB33	7	Missouri Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs banquet held at Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City. Photo by Anderson of Kansas City. Measures 20¼"x8".	05/02-04/1947
	OB33	7	Head table at the National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs held in Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis. Photo by Eugene Taylor. Measures 11 1/8"x14".	07/01/1954
	Drawer 5	9	35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of the National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs held in Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis. Photo by Eugene Taylor. Measures 38"x10".	07/01/1954

## MISCELLANEA, 1921-1958

*Arrangement:* Chronological

### Scope and Content

Miscellaneous loose records such as magazines, brochures, newspaper clippings and correspondence.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	101	1	Small flyer: Senior Class of Sedalia High School Presents "Nothing But the Truth: A Comedy in Three Acts" by James Montgomery. High School Auditorium. Hazel Palmer as "Martha."	05/24/1921
	101	2	a) Endorsement of John W. Palmer as candidate for US Representative from the 7 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District, August 1928 primary. b) Sample Republican ticket for Pettis County for the November 5, 1946 election. Hazel Palmer is the candidate for Collector of Revenue.	1928 & 1946
	101	3	<u>Inauguration Ceremonies Program: Program of the Ceremonies Attending the Inauguration of the President and Vice President of the United States at the National Capitol.</u> US Government Printing Office, Washington.	03/04/1929
	101	4	a) Program for the Sixty-First Annual Convocation of National University for the Conferring of Degrees in the Schools of Law and Economics and Government. Washington, DC. b) Program for the Sixty-Third Annual Convocation of National University for the Conferring of Degrees in the Schools of Law and Economics and Government. Washington, DC.	06/13/1930 & 06/13/1932
	101	5	Invitation to KBII 24 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary Providence II Women's City Club event. Washington, DC. Front has "Mary Cavis" written on it and a photograph of women dressed in 18 <sup>th</sup> Century clothing and wigs.	12/15/1932
	101	6	Two Sedalia Chapter Business & Professional Women's Club Yearbooks	1935-1936 & 1938-1939
	101	7	Two Sedalia Chapter No. 57 Order of the Eastern Star Officers and Committees brochures	1936 & 1942
	101	8	Two cards addressed to Hazel with envelopes	February 1947
	101	9	National Business Woman magazine, Vol. 36 No. 3 (March 1957); cover of Vol. 36 No. 7 (July 1957) with a letter on the back by Hazel regarding the equal rights amendment (2 copies)	March-July 1957

	101	10	Correspondence a) Thank you from US Rep. Charles A. Boyle of Illinois, 12/24/1957 b) Thank you from US Sen. Thomas E. Martin of Iowa, 12/26/1957 c) Thank you from US Rep. Wright Patman of Texas, 12/28/1957 d) Thank you from Gov. George M. Leader of Pennsylvania, 12/31/1957 e) Thank you from US Rep. E.C. Gathings of Arkansas, 01/07/1958 f) Christmas & New Year's card from Gov. Charles H. Russell and family of Nevada, 1957-1958 g) Christmas card from Gov. Cecil H. Underwood and family of West Virginia, 1957	Dec. 1957- Jan. 1958
	101	11	<u>Loose newspaper clippings [need to be photocopied in the future]</u>	1940s-1950s